Appointment of IIM Directors

2776. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have invited applications for filling up the post of Directors for the Indian Institutes of Management at Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta through advertisements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the strong resentment of faculty members of these premier B-schools, over the present selection process of their Directors; and

(d) If so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D.PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes sir; for filling up the forthcoming vacancies of Directors of Indian Institutes of Management at Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Kolkata, the Government had also invited applications through advertisements to ensure ,broad based and transparent procedure. In addition, letters were also written to eminent educationists, industrialists, heads of Institutes etc. to recommend suitable persons for the post of Director for consideration of the Search-cum-Selection Committees constituted for this purpose.

(c) and (d) Though certain concerns were raised in the media and a section of faculty of these Institutes over the inviting of applications through press advertisements, the Government has clarified that there has been no change in the established procedure of selection of the Directors and the Search-cum-Selection Committee can consider and recommend the name of any suitable candidate for the post of Director of Indian Institute of Management and such a candidate need not have necessarily applied against the open press advertisement. The Director of Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) is appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on the basis of recommendation of the Search-cum-Selection Committee constituted for this purpose.

Extension of Mid-Day-Meal Scheme to middle schools

2777. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mid-Day-Meal Scheme is proposed to be extended to middle schools in Goa;

(b) whether Government have received any communication in this regard from the Goa Government;

(c) whether this scheme would be financed by the Central Government, on the pattern of the existing scheme;

(d) whether Government's pattern of assistance to the existing scheme has been increased uniformly or otherwise; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir. As per the Budget announcement, the Mid Day Meal Scheme will be extended to upper primary classes in Government and Government-aided schools in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) in the country in the year 2007-08. There are no EBBs in Goa.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir, in respect of EBBs for the year 2007-08.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Scheme was revised in 2006 to 'provide mid-day meal to children in classes I-V in Government, Government-aided schools and EGS/AIE centres as per the following details:–

- Nutritional norm was increased from 300 calories to 450 calories and protein content from 8-12 grams-to 12 grams per child per school day.
- Central assistance towards cooking cost in the case of States in NorthEast Region was raised from Re. 1.00 per child/school day to Rs. 1.80 provided the State Government contributed a minimum of 20 paise per child per school day. For other States and UT's, it was raised from Re. 1.00 to Rs. 1.50 provided the State Government./UT administration contributed a minimum of 50 paise per child per school day.
- Provision for Central assistance to construct kitchen-cum-store up to a maximum of Rs. 60,000/- per unit has been made. However, States are encouraged to ensure convergence with other rural infrastructure development schemes for construction of kitchen-cum-stores.
- Provision for Central assistance for procurement. and replacement of kitchen devices at an average cost of Rs. 5,000/- per unit has been made.
- Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME) cost is provided at the rate of 2% of the cost of foodgrain, cooking cost and transportation cost. The amount is shared in the ratio of 1.8:0.2% between the State and the Centre.

Expenditure on higher education

2778. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 0.37 per cent of GDP is going towards higher education at present which is three times lower than what it is in developed countries;